

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 10, as follows:

Another situation in which it is inconvenient to place the code on the object being marked is for agricultural products, such as corn, wheat, rice, etc. The problem is not that the codes cannot be placed on the objects: codes can be easily be made small enough to be placed on objects smaller than an individual grain of rice. But marking each kernel of corn is not practical. Instead, occasional kernels of coded white corn or lima beans can be inserted into a shipment of yellow corn: for example, two or three per cubic meter. (Less visible kernels of rice can be labeled and used in the same way if more covert approaches are desired.) These coded, separable grains provide the necessary tracking information, without affecting downstream processing of the corn. As the corn moves along a conveyor belt, a large green lima bean will be easy to spot and retrieve, and the code can then be found and used to verify the source of the corn. (If it is desired that the markers not be visible to end consumers, the relative size of lima beans as compared with kernels of corn would enable easy sorting. And if white corn were used as a marker for a shipment of yellow corn, the product would not be compromised by the markers, because of the similarity of the marker to the product.)